

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

### TREE / SHRUBSITE PREPARATION

(Acre)  
CODE 490

#### DEFINITION

Treatment of areas to improve site conditions for establishing trees and /or shrubs.

#### PURPOSES

- Encourage natural regeneration of desirable woody plants.
- Permit artificial regeneration.
- Increase carbon storage in biomass and soils.

#### CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

Practice applies on all lands needing treatment to establish trees and/or shrubs.

#### CRITERIA

##### General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

On forest and woodlands in New Mexico the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides technical assistance through the local service foresters. A landowner harvesting over 25 acres per year must obtain a state permit from the service forester and have a regeneration plan. The local service forester can produce the regeneration plan or a consultant can do the work. The local service forester maintains a list of state certified consultant foresters. Forest trails and landings are usually an integral component of a forest and woodland management plan. Always check with the local service forester when making site-specific specifications on forestland.

The method, intensity and timing of site preparation will match the limitations of the site, equipment, safety, and the requirements of the desired woody species.

An appropriate site preparation method will be chosen to protect any desirable vegetation.

Slash and debris shall be removed, treated or eliminated as appropriate. Refer to the standard Slash Treatment, 384.

Remaining slash and debris shall not create habitat for or harbor harmful levels of pests.

Remaining slash and debris shall not hinder needed equipment operations or create undue fire hazard.

Erosion and/or runoff will be controlled.

All chemicals will be applied in accordance with label guidelines.

Measures, including the use of equipment, will be implemented to control or protect against locally invasive and noxious species that may arise from site preparation activities. If pesticides are used, refer to the standard Pest Management, 595.

Comply with applicable laws and regulations, including New Mexico Best Management Practices(BMPs).

All practices and procedures that involve ground-disturbing activities will be in compliance with applicable Cultural Resource Protection laws, regulations, and policies.

##### Additional Criteria for Sequestration of Carbon

For optimal carbon sequestration, select plants that have higher rates of sequestration and are adapted to the site to assure strong health and vigor and plant the full stocking rate for the site.

#### CONSIDERATIONS

The chosen method should be cost effective and protect cultural resources, wildlife habitat, water and soil resources and identified unique areas.

1. Anticipate possible off-site effects and modify the site preparation design accordingly.
2. Consider selection of plants that have higher carbon sequestration rates.

<p>Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resource Conservation Service.</p>
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## **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Plans will address method of site preparation, species, and protection required for desirable woody species.

Specifications for applying this practice and protection of the site shall be prepared and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan or other acceptable documentation.

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Repair erosion control measures as necessary to ensure proper function. Success by vehicles during site preparation or after (i.e. before adequate tree and shrub establishment occurs) should be controlled to minimize erosion, compaction and other site impacts.

Periodic inspections during treatment activities are necessary to ensure that objectives are achieved and resource damage is minimized. Contact the local NRCS conservationist immediately when unexpected problems, questions arise during practice installation.

Control locally invasive and noxious plants as necessary. If pesticides are used, refer to the standard Pest Management, 595.

Access by vehicles or equipment during or after site preparation shall be controlled to minimize erosion, compaction and other site impacts. Refer to the standard Use Exclusion, 472.